

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Battie in view of Courtin is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites, inter alia, "a pair of grooves are formed adjacent to the engaging sections for engaging threads ... and wherein the pawls can be bent in opposite directions at the thin sections for mounting on the stud from two directions." Claim 6 (amended to include the subject matter of Claims 4 and 5) recites that there are a pair of engaging sections and a pair of grooves at opposite sides of a section of the pawl substantially thicker than a section of the pawl forming the hinge, whereby an engaging section and a groove can engage the threaded stud irrespective of the direction of insertion of the stud into the bore.

The devices recited in Claims 1 and 6 are neither taught nor suggested by the proposed combination of Battie and Courtin.

The devices of Battie and Courtin are quite different in their construction and functions and are not reasonably combinable in the manner proposed in the rejection. Battie relies on a combination of support beams 13 (with catch projections 14) and spring tongues 15. Significantly, Battie uses the term "spring tongues" and not "pawls". The operation in Battie is such that the reinforced ends 16 of the spring tongues 15 are wedged between the beams 13 and

the threaded bolt 10. See Figs. 4-6 and the last complete paragraph in column 2 of Battie. Since the spring tongues 15 are wedged between support beams 13 and a bolt, there is no need for precise engagement of the spring tongues with portions of the threads of the bolt.

The support beams 13 of Battie are similar to the catch 6 of Courtin in their construction and engagement with the threads of a bolt. Thus, while the catch 6 of Courtin is relevant to the support beams 13 of Battie, it is not relevant to the spring tongues 15 of Battie. Because of the manner in which the device of Battie functions (wedging action), one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to make the Office's proposed changes in the spring tongues of Battie in view of the catch of Courtin. There is no need for such changes.

The rejection of Claims 2, 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Battie in view of Courtin and further in view of Kraus is respectfully traversed. Base Claims 1 and 6 distinguish patentably from the proposed combination of Battie and Courtin, as discussed above, and Kraus does not compensate for the deficiencies of Battie and Courtin.

The rejection of Claim 8 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Battie in view of Courtin and Kraus and further in view of Miura is respectfully traversed. Base Claim 6 distinguishes patentably from Battie and Courtin, as discussed above, and the addition of Kraus and Miura does not compensate for the deficiencies of Battie and Courtin.

The arguments for patentability of Claim 1 presented above do not rely upon the dimensional relationships recited in the claim. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that the dimensional relationships are entitled to patentable weight. Although the preamble of Claim 1 recites a "device", it is apparent that the detailed dimensional relationships recited in the claim are not merely an intended use. These relationships are clearly intended to limit the claim. Realistically, because the recited relationships involve relationships before and after insertion of the stud, reciting a "combination" of the device and the stud would not be more meaningful in informing a person of ordinary skill in the art of the scope of the invention intended to be claimed.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

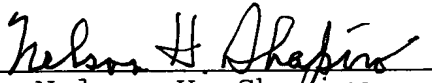
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

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